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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

6 AUG 1974

The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense(Intelligence)
Room 3C200
The Pentagon

DCI/IC

1134

Dear Al:

Thank you for your letter of 23 July concerning planned NPIC and DIA imagery-related data automation systems. I agree that we should take a hard look at assuring a clear compatibility between the systems and, as your letter suggests, there may be some prospect for an overall system for the Washington area which could provide people saving. There certainly should be little or no need for duplicating.

John Hicks indicated in the briefing session we both attended on 25 July that he is well along contractually to replacing NPIC's present computer system and that the major aspects of the NPIC system for the next several years are already committed. On the other hand, I gather the DIA imagery-related data handling system is somewhat more diversified than NPIC's and includes, in addition to imagery processing, collection management and dissemination capabilities to serve departmental users worldwide. We need to take a careful look at design systems and software implications for the two in the light of the purposes they serve and this should be done forthwith.

I have instructed the D/DCI/IC to ask the Acting Chairman of the Information Handling Committee of USIB, [] to take steps with NPIC, COMIREX and DIA to look into the matter and to report on the prospects of blending the two systems and/or developing a single system plan as your letter suggests. [] will be in touch directly with []

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Sincerely,

SIGNED

W. E. Colby

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MORI/CDE